



September 23, 2014

House Energy and Technology Committee  
Lansing, Michigan

Re: SB 910 / SCR14 – Regulation of wood-burning stoves and furnaces

Dear Committee Members,

The Michigan Environmental Council is a coalition of over 65 environmental, conservation, public health and faith-based member groups located across the state. We think that legislative action in this area is premature, in that the EPA is still working on its new regulation, and final regulation may include significant input from the manufacturers of these stoves and furnaces.

The use of wood-burning stoves and furnaces have direct impacts on public health. It is our understanding that many complaints about use of these devices and their emissions have already been coming into state and local officials. Wood-burning stoves and furnaces can be a significant source of particulate matter which has been demonstrated to have impacts on both children as their lungs develop and people with respiratory or heart conditions. Regulating the emissions from these stoves and furnaces reduces public health impacts.

Michigan has been delegated the authority to implement the Clean Air Act in Michigan. They should continue to implement the entire act, not just portions of it. It is important to note that the new standard does not apply to existing systems, but just the sale of new systems.

Regulations of wood-burning stoves and furnaces have not been updated in 26 years, and technology has significantly changed. The short-term standards represent reduction already being achieved by the best manufacturers - the longer term standard pushes the industry toward greater reduction and may be revised in the final rule.

In summary, we believe the committee should take no action today due to the rules not be finalized. If a vote is taken, we request members vote no in order to protect the public health of children and people with respiratory or heart conditions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Mullkoff,  
Energy Program Director